



Trainee Newsletter

From the Trainee Committee

November 2011 Issue 1

The RCoA Trainee Committee

Last October, the College asked for nominations for the new Trainee Committee. The new committee is now up and running....

Who are we?

The committee is chaired by the two elected trainee Royal College Council members – Dr Sanjiv Patel and Dr Ramani Moonesinghe.

There are four elected members: Dr James Dawson, Dr Katy Nicholson, Dr Davina Ross-Anderson and Dr Jennie Kerr. There are also four co-opted members: Dr Ami Jones (Wales), Dr Prit Anand Singh (Scotland), Dr Caroline Hawe (Northern Ireland), and Dr Alex Beckingsale (GAT representative).

To see more about us, go to www.rcoa.ac.uk/traineeectee

What do we do?The trainee voice

Most trainees associate the RCoA with exams and courses.

College work is much more than just that, behind the scenes the College works tirelessly for all anaesthetists – consultants and trainees alike.

It is important that trainees are involved in college work and processes so we can help shape the future of our careers, especially when training has undergone so many recent developments – MMC, EWTD, exam changes, revalidation etc.

One of the main aims of the committee is to improve communication between the RCoA and its trainees.

'The Gas' is designed to highlight important trainee information and the website is being redesigned to make it easier to access the latest trainee related news.

As some of you know the College is also on Twitter ([@RCoANews](https://twitter.com/RCoANews)).

During our meetings, we discuss training issues that have arisen, hear reports from the other sub-committees and develop new concepts such as this to improve communication.

At the last meeting, we discussed the new e-portfolio roll-out and helped the College to disseminate information on its use.

In order to effectively represent trainees we need to have your input. If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns or new ideas please get in touch by emailing us at trainee@rcoa.ac.uk

e-Portfolio

The RCoA e-Portfolio is here! It is rolling out nationwide to all schools of anaesthesia. It is a web-based application designed to allow trainees to electronically record their training activities.

It allows workplace based assessments (A-CEX, ACAT, ALMAT, CBD, DOPS and MSF) and personal development plans to be created and completed electronically by nominated assessors.

There is a useful diary function allowing study leave and other relevant events to be recorded.

Online storage is available to safeguard copies of important documents eg. your degree certificate, course certificates and pre-existing workplace based assessments. In order to utilize this you will, however, need to create an electronic copy of the document (i.e. scan it into a PDF).

All of the information contained within e-Portfolio can be mapped against both the RCoA curriculum and the GMC Good Practice domains. Furthermore, you can link activities and evidence to PDP objectives for review by your Educational Supervisor.

If used appropriately it should make preparing for an ARCP considerably easier than the current paper based system as it allows report collation, remote review of progress by approved trainers and cross referencing of evidence and activities.

In addition, there is a communication system which can be used to broadcast information to trainees via alerts on the homepage.

There is a wealth of information and help available to assist trainees in setting up their e-Portfolio accounts on the RCoA webpage [RCoA e-Portfolio](http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/e-Portfolio).

This area of the website is being frequently updated so it is well worth a visit for all e-Portfolio users be they trainees or Consultant assessors.

Recruitment 2012

The Timelines for CT1 and CT2 and ST3 recruitment in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have now been published on the [recruitment section](#) of the College website. If you know any prospective CT1 applicants they may well appreciate a pointer to that information.

2012 will see the introduction of twice yearly recruitment at CT1, CT2 and ST3 levels. As well as the existing August start date, there will be a second round of applications in the autumn for posts commencing in February 2013.

[Eligibility for entry into ST3 from August 2013](#)

From August 2013 candidates must have passed the full Primary FRCA (MCQ and OSCE/Viva) by the time they attend for ST3 interview.

Dr Richard Marks who chairs the RCoA Recruitment Committee has written a helpful article in the September edition of the [RCoA Bulletin \(Issue 69\)](#) which outlines all these changes and



discusses their ramifications.

The Scottish Question

Scotland will once again be recruiting separately and information about posts their will be available on the [Scottish Medical Training website](#).

Course you can!

'Those courses at the College are just for consultants to catch up on CPD points' – ST4 Anaesthesia, London. WRONG!! Your Royal College runs courses that are suitable for YOU!

Here's a selection of upcoming courses that fit in with the CT and ST curriculum:

Anaesthetists as Educators

See the [website](#) for dates.

- A series of courses designed to provide the skills needed to be an effective educator.
- The first course 'an introduction' gives a run through of post graduate medical education, adult learning theory and provides pointers on how to give lectures and presentations.
- The Second in the series 'Delivering in the workplace' builds on the concepts introduced in the first course. The next date is 30 November–1 December 2011.

Primary FRCA Masterclass: 12–15 December 2011

- We recommend that only candidates who plan to sit the February 2012 examination attend this course.
- Covering the key areas in Pharmacology, Physics, Statistics and Clinical Measurement that candidates have difficulty with in the examination.
- Combining MCQ practice covering these difficult subject areas with lectures.
- Related e-Learning resources are available on e-Learning Anaesthesia.
- Candidates will be able to compare their performance within their peer group on pre-lecture MCQs.

Final FRCA Revision Course: 9–13 January 2012

- Self explanatory really!

Airway Workshop: 1 February 2012

- An ideal course for all levels of trainees.
- Allows hands on practice with airway equipment.
- This course also runs in venues throughout the UK at other points in the year.

To view more details about the courses and book your place go to the [Events section of the RCoA website](#).

Call for national representatives in education, specialty training and clinical leadership

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) Trainee Doctors' Group aims to represent all College and Faculty trainee committees on issues relating to trainees and provides a coherent view from junior doctors to the AoMRC. It acts proactively on training, workforce and service issues.

These new positions will help support the existing Academy Trainee Doctors Group (ATDG) by focusing on one of specific areas above. The appointed trainee will be expected to lead discussion on a national basis. The roles require dynamic motivated trainees. If you are interested further details are available on the [AoMRC website](#).

Please contact the RCoA Trainee Committee for further information.

RCoA Annual Congress 3–4 May 2012, IET London Call for abstracts

A special opportunity for new Fellows and Members of the College to present free papers. We would like to invite submissions under the following categories:

- 1 Audit
- 2 Research

Abstracts may be selected for podium presentation or as poster displays. Full details of abstract submissions can be obtained by email from: drowlanes@rcoa.ac.uk.

Prizes will be awarded for the best presentations and abstracts will be considered for publication by the *BJA* after the Congress.

Deadline: Monday, 6 February 2012

...STOP PRESS...

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Trainee Doctors Group have just announced their Trainee essay prize.

There is a chance to win £500 (and lots of CV bonus points!).

All you have to do is write a short essay (500–1000 words) on 'How can the quality and delivery of medical training be improved while supporting high quality patient care without additional cost?'

The competition is open to all foundation doctors, CTs/STs or SpR. Those on OOPE/T are also eligible.

The closing date is 2 December 2011 so get your laptops out and start writing. You have to be in it to win it!

The application and further information is available [here](#).

NIAA Study Day

The National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia is having it's annual trainee study day at the College on 14 March 2012.

There is an interesting programme lined up and a poster presentation opportunity. A great opportunity for academic trainees or those interested in pursuing academic training to network.

More information is available on the [NIAA website](#).

OOPT in ZAMBIA

A unique opportunity for a dynamic ST6 trainee!

If you have been looking for something truly amazing to do with your advanced training years, here it is:

University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka
OOPT established and all arrangements in place – all you need to do is apply!

August 2012, for 6 months
(Closing date: 30 Nov 2011)

WHY?

- RCDA approved for training towards CCT
- Excellent experience in paediatric anaesthesia!
- Challenging environment and opportunity to develop non-clinical skills
- Be part of a unique MMed programme and develop your teaching and supervision skills
- Audit / Research opportunities abound!

Send your CV with a cover letter to gerbenbachs@hotmail.com
Contact Carin Dear to find out more: 07875644115